

A NEW STAPELIA FROM THE KAROO

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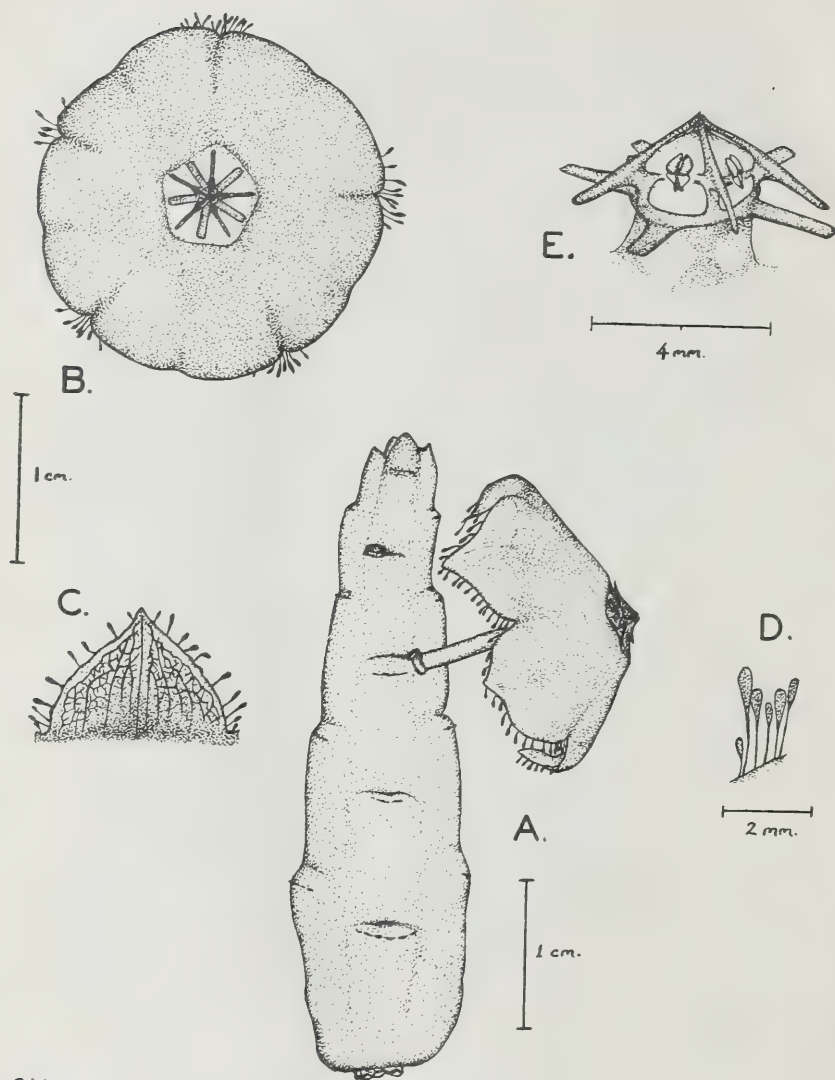
(*Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town.*)

Stapelia thudichumii Pillans, sp. nov. Caules ascendentes vel erecti fere 10 cm. longi, 4-angulati, minute papillati, dilute atropurpurea, dentibus minutissimis. Pedicelli fere 1 cm. longi glabri. Sepala 8—9 mm. longa, lanceolata. Corolla 1—3 cm. diam., fuscopurpurea. Discus 8 mm. diam., concavus, lobi deltoides clavato-ciliati. Coronae squamae exteriores oblongae obtusae fuscopurpureae; interiores erecta bipartitae.

Stems ascending or erect, about 10 cm. long, 1.5 cm. broad at the widest part, obtusely 4-angled, minutely papillate, mottled dull purple-brown, minutely dentate on the angles. Flowers solitary when developed. Pedicels about 1 cm. long. Sepals 8—9 mm. long, lanceolate, glabrous. Corolla 1.3 cm. broad, with a pentangular central depression 8 mm. wide and 2 mm. deep; disk convex, reticulately furrowed, purple-brown; lobes 0.9 cm. long, 1—1.1 cm. broad, deltoid, acute, much recurved with spreading margins on the lower half, pale purple-brown, with clavate vibratile cilia. Outer corona-lobes 2.5 mm. long, oblong, tapered to an obtuse apex, laterally compressed, glabrous, purple-brown; inner corona-lobes bicornate, purple-brown; dorsal horn 2 mm. long, linear-oblong, obtuse, widened at the base, laterally compressed; inner horn slightly shorter, subulate, obtuse, depressed at the base, somewhat recurved.

CAPE PROVINCE: Sutherland Div.: Tanqua Karoo, between Verlatenkloof and Granskraal, at locality known as Uitkomst. Collected by Mr. J. Thudichum, November, 1954. Type in Bolus Herbarium 26740, ex hort. Karoo Garden, Worcester, No. 583/54.

The affinity is with *S. revoluta* Mass. from which it is distinguished by the minute teeth and purple-brown mottling on the stems, the very much smaller papillate corolla, shorter, narrower, entire outer corona lobes and the outer segment of the inner corona neither clavate nor having tubercles at the apex.



AV Hall.

Stapelia thudichumii.

FIGS. A, stem, pedicel and corolla; B, corolla, front view; C, corolla-lobe, dorsal surface; D, marginal hairs on the corolla; E, corona with anthers.